

What we claim is:

- 5 1. A method of analysing the contents of a pressurised container comprising the steps of: enclosing said container in a pressure vessel;  
pressurising said pressure vessel with a non-reactive fluid;  
piercing said pressurised container within said pressure vessel;  
and analysing the content of said pressurised container when drawn off through  
10 said piercing.
2. A method of analysing the contents of a pressurised container as claimed in claim 1  
wherein said piercing is performed in the following steps:  
a first piercing, by which piercing the container is pre-pressurised, and  
15 a second piercing,  
the pressure inside the container is kept constant by said first piercing when the  
content of the container is drawn off through said second piercing.
3. A method of analysing the contents of a pressurised container as claimed in claim 1  
or 2,  
20 further comprising the step of analysing the contents remaining on container  
component after contents are drawn off.
4. A method of analysing the contents of a pressurised container as claimed in claim  
1, 2 or 3 wherein said container is a metered dose inhaler canister.
- 25 5. A method of analysing the contents of a pressurised container as claimed in any one  
of claims 1 to 3 wherein said non-reactive fluid is a propellant.
6. A method of analysing the contents of a pressurised container as claimed in any one  
30 of claims 1 to 3 wherein said non-reactive fluid is nitrogen.
7. A method of analysing the contents of a pressurised container as claimed in claim 5  
wherein said nitrogen is gaseous.